FAMILY READINESS

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ACS
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

Family Readiness

Family Readiness Mission

To provide guidance about policy, authority and procedures for implementing and sustaining a Family and Soldier Readiness System to ensure personal preparedness of Soldiers and their Families.

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U.S. ARMY
MWR

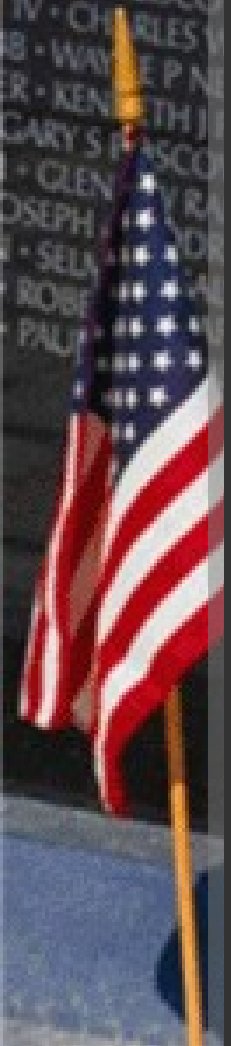
Soldier Goals

- **Performance:** Family Members have a direct effect on unit morale and cohesion
- **Readiness:** Soldiers with personal/Family problems increase risk
- **Retention:** Rates increase with Spouse satisf

Family Readiness

Unit FR Objectives

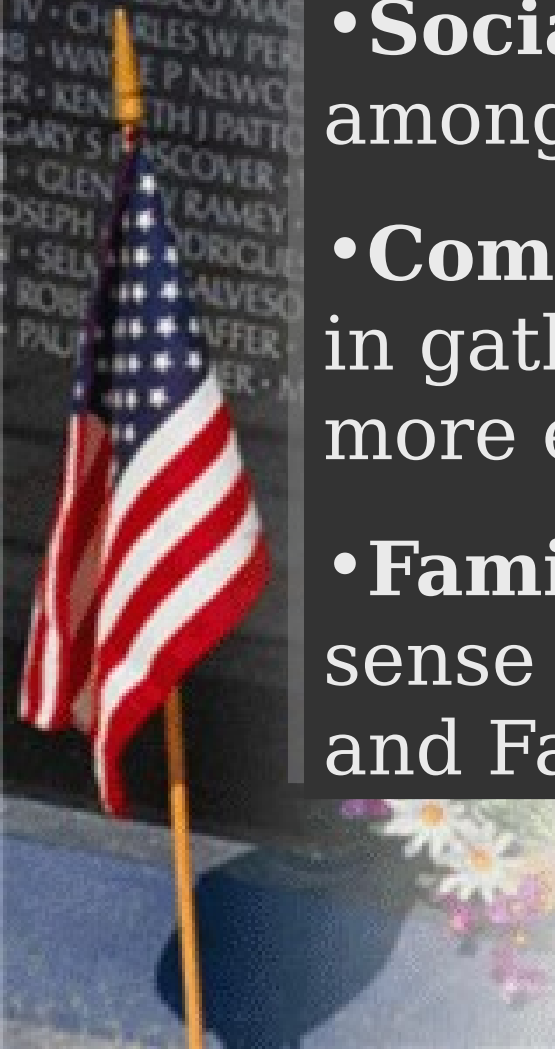
- Welcome Service and Family Members into the unit
- Develop and provide copies of the telephone trees to all FRG members
- Assist Family Members in understanding the mission
- Provide social and emotional support during deployments and while Soldiers are at school and on temporary duty at other locations
- Sponsor deployment and reunion briefings
- Organize meetin[illegible]vite [illegible]tter experts from



Family Readiness

FR Goals

- **Social Support –** to reduce isolation among Family Members
- **Communication System -** to assist in gathering important information more efficiently and effectively
- **Family Activities -** to establish a real sense of community among Soldiers and Family Members



ACS Family Readiness Coordinator

- ✓ **Regulations**
  - Family Readiness (DA PAM 608-47)
  - Sponsorship (AR 600-20)
  - Family Care Plan (AR 600-20)
  - Family Support (AR 608-99)
  - I
- ✓ **Chairs Meetings for Family Readiness Personnel**
  - Commanders
  - Rear Detachment Commanders
  - Family Readiness Liaisons (Military)
  - Family Readiness Leader (Civilian)
  - Family Readiness Volunteers
- ✓ **Pre-deployment / Reunion Briefings**
  - Operation READY Videos, Handouts and Presentation
  - Community Subject Matter Experts Identified
  - List of Active Family Readiness Personnel

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Family Readiness

How can we help you?

- Military/Community Info & Referral
- Newsletter Issues
- Fundraising Issues
- Individual Soldier/Family Issues
- AFTB Training
- Waiting Spouse Group
- Volunteer Recognition

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Family Readiness

Coping with Deployment

- ***Deployments are a fact of life for the Army***

➢ **Pre-deployment Briefs Subject Matter Experts (SME):**

- **Army Community Service (Family Readiness, EFMP)**
- **Finance**
- **Legal**
- **American Red Cross**
- **Public Affairs**
- **Chaplain**
- **Housing**
- **USO**

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Family Readiness

REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER/FAMILY READINESS GROUP LEADER TRAINING

All Rear Detachment Commanders and Family Readiness Group Leaders are to receive training

- Updated RDC/FRG Leader's Handbook
- Training CD
- RDC Training Binder

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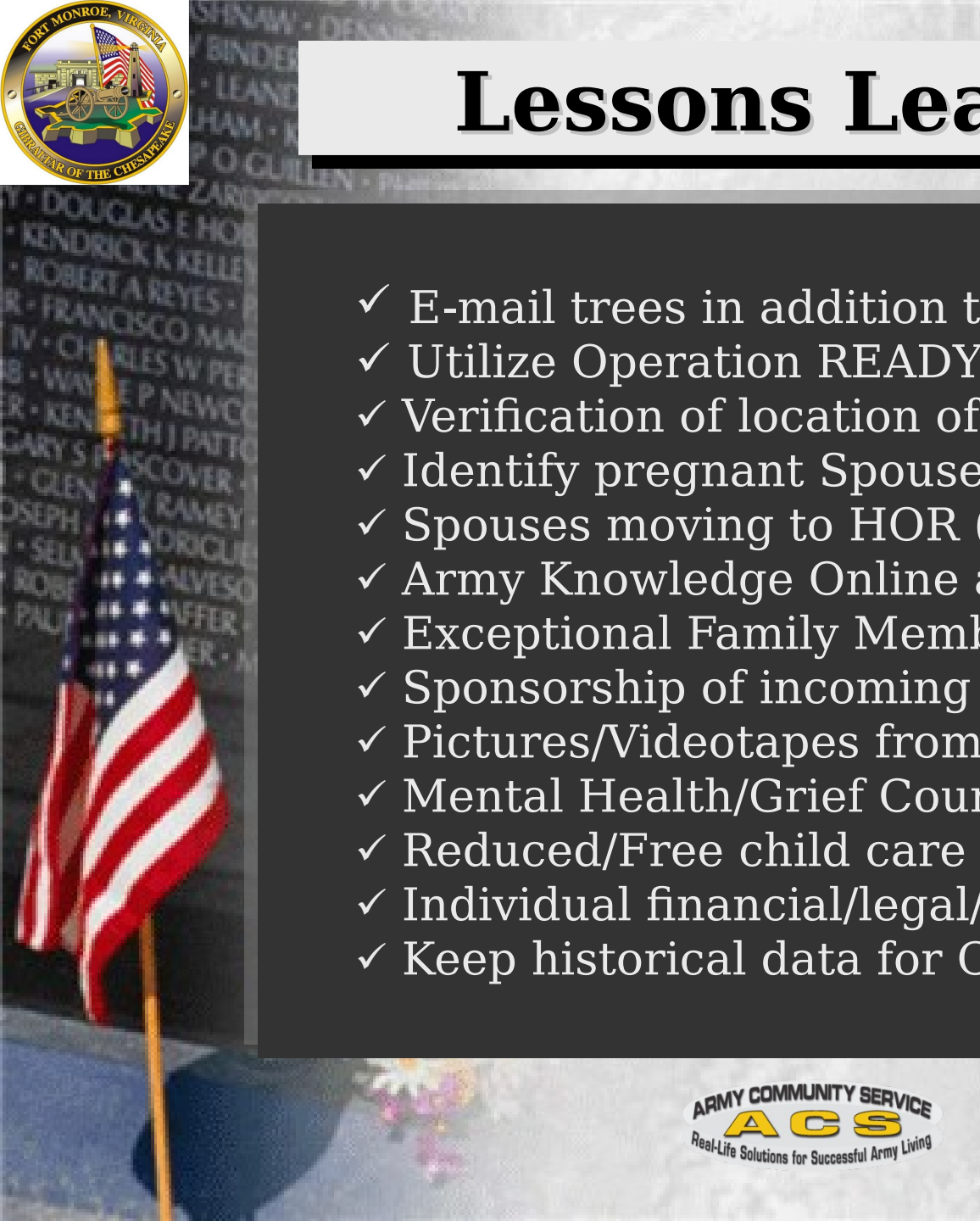
Family Readiness

Lessons Learned

- ✓ Family Readiness personnel on orders
- Use Family Readiness job descriptions
- Publish Family Readiness Responsibilities
- Burn out for Family Readiness Liaisons/Leaders
- Train on how SM/Volunteers can deal with Difficult people
- Computer bank
- Group events (rotate responsibility through RDC units/BNs)
- Call scripts (boots on ground vs. preliminary and official notification)
- One person (NOK) will be called for each SM (not
- Websites available
- 1-800 Family Assistance Center
- Put area codes on all unit numbers

Lessons Learned

- ✓ E-mail trees in addition to telephone trees
- ✓ Utilize Operation READY materials
- ✓ Verification of location of Spouse's residence
- ✓ Identify pregnant Spouses
- ✓ Spouses moving to HOR (TRICARE/Housing options)
- ✓ Army Knowledge Online accounts for Spouses
- ✓ Exceptional Family Members identified
- ✓ Sponsorship of incoming Soldiers/Families
- ✓ Pictures/Videotapes from the AOR
- ✓ Mental Health/Grief Counseling
- ✓ Reduced/Free child care for deployed Spouses
- ✓ Individual financial/legal/support issues
- ✓ Keep historical data for Congressional inquiries



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Family Readiness

Special Events

- ☺ Volunteer Recognition - Apr
- ☺ Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May
- ☺ Military Family Month – Nov
- ☺ Holiday Assistance Program (ACS) – Nov/Dec
- ☺ Holiday Rooms Program - Dec
- ☺ Deployment/Reunion Briefs - ongoing
- ☺ Waiting Families Group- ongoing
- ☺ Teleconference/VTC – ongoing

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Family Readiness

Websites

- www.armyfrg.org Virtual Family Readiness Group
- www.goacs.org FRG Leader's Handbook, Operation READY Materials and Relocation Info, click on 'relocation'
- www.militaryonesource.com Military OneSource
- www.monroe.army.mil Monroe Homepage
- www.apd.army.mil/USAPA_PUB_pubrange_P.asp Army Publications

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Family Readiness

The Total Army Sponsorship Program
AR 600-8-8

A Commander's Program

Benefits

- New Soldiers adapt quickly to unit and community
- A sense that the unit "cares"
- Sense of belonging, positive outlook, and improved teamwork within and among units
- Warmth and attentiveness of caring sponsors pays big dividends in how Families feel about the Army; which increases Family participation in Army/unit related activities and increases Retention

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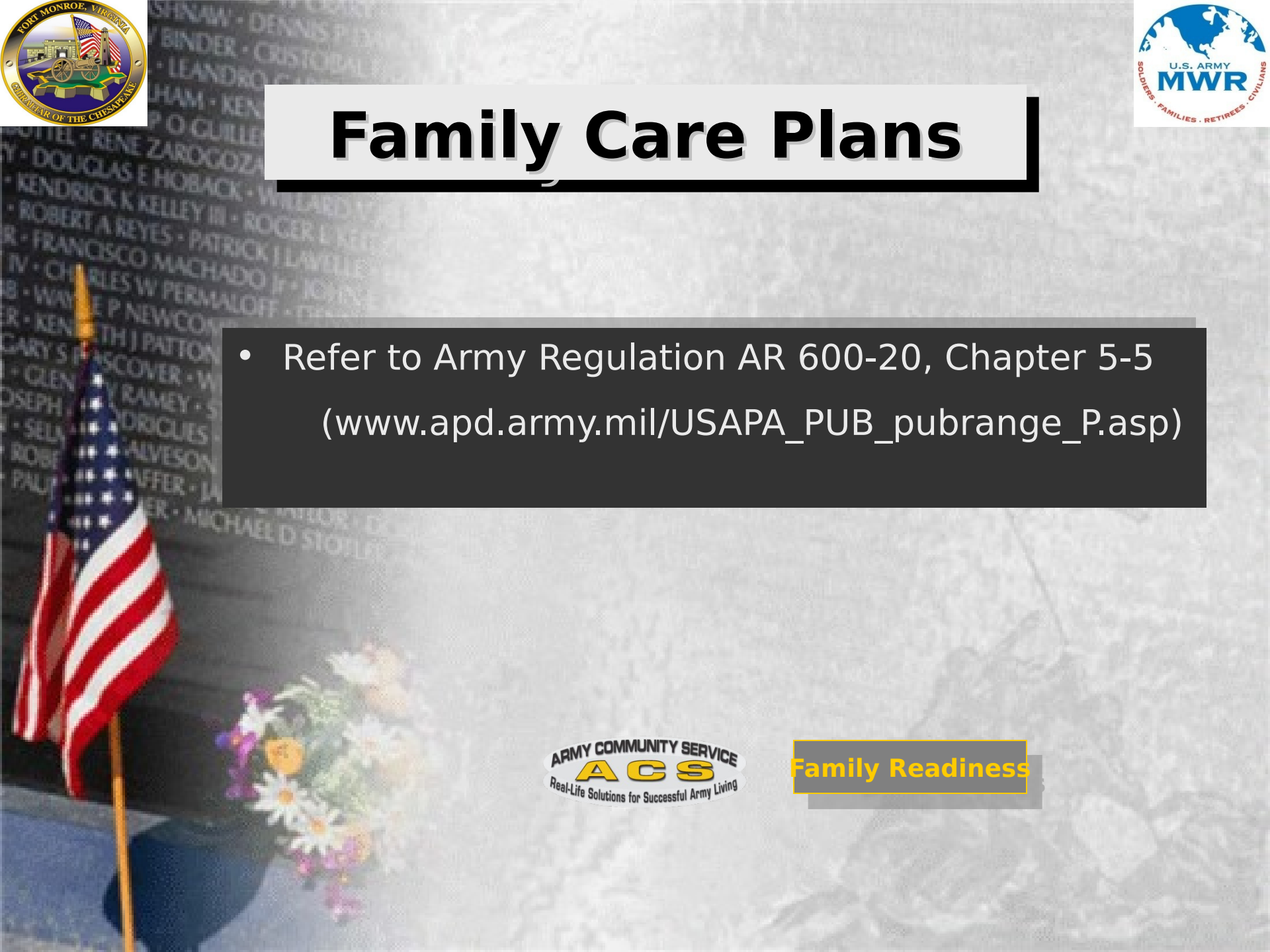
Family Care Plans

- Refer to Army Regulation AR 600-20, Chapter 5-5 (www.apd.army.mil/USAPA_PUB_pubrange_P.asp)



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